

# Battalion Classifieds

# World/Nation

## Severe quake in China kills 600, reports claim

### NOTICE

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### SERVICES

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BEIJING (AP) — A powerful earthquake struck just inside China's mountainous southern border, and two official radio stations reported Monday that 600 people were killed.

Radio Beijing and the Peoples' Central Broadcasting Station quoted the same reporter, Hu Jiaqi, about the death toll.

Radio Beijing also quoted him as saying most of the dead were in Shanmato, a village in Yunnan province that was nearly wiped out by the earthquake, which registered 7.6 on the Richter scale, which measures the intensity of earthquakes.

Hu's account could not be confirmed independently. An earlier Radio Beijing report said total casualties were 600, including dead and injured victims from the quake.

The State Seismology Bureau in Beijing, which had reported 18 killed and 54 injured, said it had no new figures available.

Dispatches from the official news agency Xinhua said at least 37 people were dead and more than 100 injured in the much debated statistics.

No telephone service was available to the affected part of Yunnan province near the Burmese border. It is sparsely inhabited by farmers, many from the Lahu and Va minorities with their own languages and live in houses of wood and mud.

A Yunnan official reached by telephone said the provincial government had no idea how many people were killed. Asked whether 600 was a plausible, he said: "It might be. It might not be."

If the death toll of 600 is accurate, this would be China's worst earthquake since the 1976, when 242,000 people were killed in the northeastern city of Tangshan.

That quake measured 7.8 on the Richter scale. Each number on the scale indi-

cates a tenfold increase in strength and a tremor of 7 can cause heavy damage in populated areas. In the case of Monday's earthquake, it is not yet known how much damage was done in any areas near the quake.

Following Sunday's quake, the State Seismology Bureau said dozens of aftershocks had struck the Yunnan region through Monday night, with the strongest measuring 7.2 but most ranging from 4.0 to 6.0.

Roads to the affected area were cut and Yunnan authorities ordered an airlift of food, medicine and other relief supplies.

The quake was centered in Yunnan's Lancang and Menglian counties, 240 miles southwest of the provincial capital Kunming. Xinhua said 14 surrounding counties.

Seismologists in Kunming reported damage in the city of 1.5 million the year ago, a quake of 6.3 on the Richter scale killed 22 people.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today agreed to study the case of a former Dallas high school football coach who says he lost his job because he is white.

The court said it will hear competing appeals filed by Norman Jett, longtime coach and athletic director at South Oak Cliff High School in Dallas, and by the Dallas Independent School District.

The justices will study a 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that ordered a new trial for Jett's lawsuit against the city school district and Frederick Todd, South Oak Cliff's principal.

A federal jury had awarded Jett \$850,000 in damages, reduced by a federal trial judge to about \$563,000.

Jett had coached the South Oak Cliff football team since 1962 when, in the spring of 1983, he was transferred to another city high school.

Jett had been named head coach and athletic director at the school in 1970, the year the racial composition at South Oak Cliff changed from predominantly white to predominantly black.

Todd, who is black, became the school's principal in 1975.

According to the 5th Circuit court, tensions between Todd and Jett were exacerbated by events surrounding South Oak Cliff's loss to Plano in the state high school championship game in November 1982.

Jett's appeal said, "Todd believed that South Oak Cliff would have a recruit young black athletes at the junior high school level and he eventually believed that a successful recruiter would have to be black."

The appeal added that Todd replaced Jett with a black coach.

# Returns in key states will predict winner

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a year-long presidential campaign, four states where the polls close early tomorrow could provide the answer to who will be the next president.

The winner could be known early if Republican George Bush is making a strong showing.

But if Democrat Michael Dukakis is doing well, it could be a long night with the result hanging on returns from the West Coast.

The four states cited by election analyst William Schneider of the American Enterprise Institute are Connecticut, Kentucky, Ohio and Vermont.

"If Dukakis wins Vermont and Connecticut, it's good news for the Democrats," Schneider said. "Keep tuned. If Dukakis wins Kentucky and Ohio, it's very good news for the Democrats."

On the other hand, he said, "If Bush wins all of those states, it ought to be a good night for him."

Of those four states, Ohio has been targeted by both Bush and Dukakis. Both candidates campaigned there Monday, the last of several trips they've made to woo Ohio voters.

In addition, they've poured a lot of money into advertising and direct mail aimed at Buckeye voters.

Most polls said Bush was leading in Ohio, but Dukakis is insisting the margin is closing rapidly.

All that attention makes Ohio a pretty good barometer of which candidate's appeal got through best to voters.

"We'll be looking clearly at places like Vermont and Connecticut," Dukakis campaign spokesman Leslie Dach said. "We'd like to win, which we think would be a strong signal for us."

He also cited the big Midwest industrial states, Colorado, Montana and South Dakota as states where the Democrats hopes to show strength.

Another extremely important state where the polls close early and the vote is tabulated fairly quickly is Illinois.

The results from Chicago should indicate how successful Dukakis was at persuading blacks to get out and vote for him. A large black turnout in Chicago is essential for a Democrat to overcome Republican majorities in the city's suburbs and elsewhere in the state.

Other states to watch — for various reasons — are Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and West Virginia.

Massachusetts should be safe for Dukakis. But if the outcome is closer than expected it could be a sign of trouble for the Massachusetts governor.

The same is true for Rhode Island,

# Polls show Bush leads as voters choose today

NEW YORK (AP) — George Bush strongly. They can vote the way they say, they can stay home, or they can be urged by somebody to change their vote."

Twenty percent in Gallup's final pre-election poll were undecided or said they could change their minds easily enough to alter the outcome in the many states where the election was close.

Nationally, the Gallup poll gave Bush an 11-point lead among likely voters, 51 percent to 42 percent.

Apportioning the 5 percent who remained undecided by their background and ideology, Gallup arrived at a 56-40 estimate.

A Harris poll conducted Wednesday through Sunday put the race at 50 percent to 46 percent, and pollster Louis Harris said his findings indicated that the race had drawn closer late last week and through the weekend.

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